

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

AGR-05 /104 W

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R 231634Z OCT 75W

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3804

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EAGR, ETRD, IT

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRAIN AND OIL TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH
THE USSR

REF: STATE 249528

1. ECMIN OCTOBER 21 MADE REPRESENTATIONS REQUESTED
REFTEL (PARA 5) TO MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS RICCIULLI AND FOLLOWED UP LATER IN DAY
WITH MFA ENERGY COORDINATOR MIGLIUOLO. BOTH NOTED
POINTEDS, PARTICULARLY SMALL AMOUNT OF PETROLEUM
POTENTIALLY INVOLVED, BUT MADE NO RPT NO SUBSTANTIVE
COMMENT. MIGLIUOLO OBSERVED THAT ITALY ALREADY
IMPORTS PETROLEUM FROM USSR (AMOUNTING IN 1974 TO
3.6 MILLION METRIC TONS; IN 1973 TO 7.0 MILLION
METRIC TONS). AGRATTACHE' FORWARDED INFO ON GRAIN
AGREEMENT TO MINAGR AND ITALIAN GRAIN IMPORTERS ASSN.

2. DOMESTIC ITALIAN PRESS COVERAGE EXTENSIVE.
COVERAGE HIGHLY FAVORABLE TO US; NORMALLY SOBER FINANCIAL
DAILY IL SOLE/24 ORE HEADLINED "IN THE GRAIN-OIL GRAND
'SLAM' OF THE UNITED STATES BEATS THE SOVIET UNION".
DETAILS OF AGREEMENT REPORTED FACTUALLY BY MOST IMPORTANT
PAPERS INCLUDING COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY L'UNITA', LEFT
CENTER PRESTIGIOUS DAILIES LA STAMPA AND CORRIERE DELLA
SERÀ. ECONOMIC PRESS PROVIDED MORE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE
AND COMMENT. OCCASTION WAS USED TO EMPHASIZE STRENGTH
OF US AGRICULTURE, BUT POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF US
TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOP SOVIET ENERGY RESOURCES CITED AS
WELL. LA STAMPA OCTOBER 22 COMMENTED THAT AGREEMENT WOULD
STRENGTHEN BREZNEV'S POSITION IN THE USSR, BUT IL SOLE/24
ORE SUGGESTED THAT USSR WAS DEALING FROM WEAKNESS, CITING
THAT AGREEMENT ON PETROLEUM WHICH, EVEN THOUGH
TENUOUS, MUST HAVE WORRIED THE USSR'S
ARAB FRIENDS AND POSSIBLE USSR NEED TO BALANCE COST
OF US GRAIN. US DOMESTIC REACTION, PARTICULARLY
THAT OF AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY (IN FAVOR) AND
FARM INTERESTS (AGAINST) COVERED AS WELL. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM, INSTRUCTIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME15456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750369-0143
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751024/aaaaavdy.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 249528
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRAIN AND OIL TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH THE USSR
TAGS: ENRG, EAGR, ETRD, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006